

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment submits the changes identified above, and is responsive in any other manner indicated below.

SPECIFICATION

The specification filed in the present application is substantially identical to the substitute specification as filed, approved and entered in the parent application. No new matter is added.

The claims and Abstract as originally filed in the parent application are submitted in the present case. No new matter is added.

The specification also has been amended to identify the parent application upon which domestic benefit is claimed herein under 35 USC §120.

PENDING CLAIMS

Appropriate claims have been canceled (without prejudice or disclaimer) or added in order to adjust a clarity and/or focus of Applicant's claimed invention. That is, such changes are unrelated to any prior art or scope adjustment and are simply refocused claims in which Applicant is presently interested. At entry of this paper, Claim 17 and 18 are pending for consideration and examination in the application.

Applicant respectfully informs the Office that additional claims may be timely filed in a Supplemental Preliminary Amendment for consideration and examination in the present continuation application.

CLAIMS FOR §§119 AND 120 PRIORITIES

Applicant claims foreign priority under 35 USC §119 of Japanese Patent Publication No. 2001-183659 filed 18 June 2001. The certified copy of the priority document was filed and acknowledged in prior Application No. 10/163,572. Written acknowledgment of the completion of requirements for entry of the claim for foreign priority under §119 in the present application is respectfully requested.

Applicant also has amended the present application to identify the parent application upon which domestic benefit is claimed herein under 35 USC §120. Written acknowledgment of the completion of requirements for entry of the claim for domestic priority under §120 in the present application is respectfully requested.

ASSIGNEE OF ENTIRE INTEREST

HITACHI, LTD. is Assignee of entire right, title and interest in and to the present application by virtue of the Assignment filed in prior Application No. 10/163,572 and recorded 7 June 2002 at Reel 012978, Frames 0143 *et seq.*

EXAMINER INVITED TO TELEPHONE

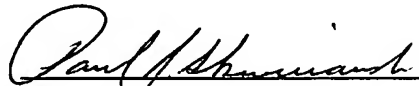
The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the local D.C. area number 703-312-6600, to discuss an Examiner's Amendment or other suggested action for accelerating prosecution and moving the present application to allowance.

CONCLUSION

This Preliminary Amendment is being filed concurrently with the present continuation application and is therefore timely, and no Petition or extension fee is

possible or required for entry. Further, no additional claim fees are required for entry of this paper. Please charge any actual deficiency in fees in connection with entry of this paper to ATS&K Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (as Case No. 503.41763CX1).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Paul J. Skwierawski", is written over a horizontal line.

Paul J. Skwierawski
Registration No. 32,173
ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP
1300 North Seventeenth Street, Suite 1800
Arlington, Virginia 22209-3801, USA
Telephone 703-312-6600
Facsimile 703-312-6666